

**Testimony to the Housing Committee Regarding
HB 6633, *An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing* and Senate Bill 4, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Current and Present Housing Needs*
February 28, 2023**

Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, Senator Sampson, Representative Scott, and members of the Housing Committee. My name is Gary Case and I am a resident of Glastonbury. I am also a member of Glastonbury First Church of Christ's Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Team.

I want to offer my **STRONG SUPPORT** for **House Bill 6633: *An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing*** and **Senate Bill 4, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Current and Present Housing Needs***.

Connecticut and our cities and towns face an ongoing housing crisis and shortage that is undermining our vitality and harming people in every zip code and most income levels. Housing costs are overwhelming family budgets. Many are forced into unsafe, substandard housing, and subjected to instances of exploitation. The most unfortunate of our neighbors are sent onto the streets. The housing shortage contributes to and exacerbates the workforce shortage damaging our economy. And, to the profound detriment of all, our rates of racial and socio-economic isolation remain among the highest across the U.S. Available housing options simply don't match people's needs and our changing household demographics.

HB 6633 offers an opportunity to address this crisis in a fair, thoughtful, and effective manner. It empowers municipalities to meet this crisis in ways best suited to their community, while providing incentives and mechanisms to spur the progress we all so desperately need.

SB 904 would also ensure progress in meeting our housing needs, as well as mitigate and prevent the financial and other hardships often experienced and enabled by our current market.

Together, we can build a stronger state economy that is more affordable, sustainable and inclusive for all our families and neighbors.

Thank you for consideration of my thoughts on this outstanding opportunity for Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Case
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